

WHAT CAN THE YOUNG PEOPLE DO FOR THE BIBLE CAUSE?

BY WILLIAM SHAW,

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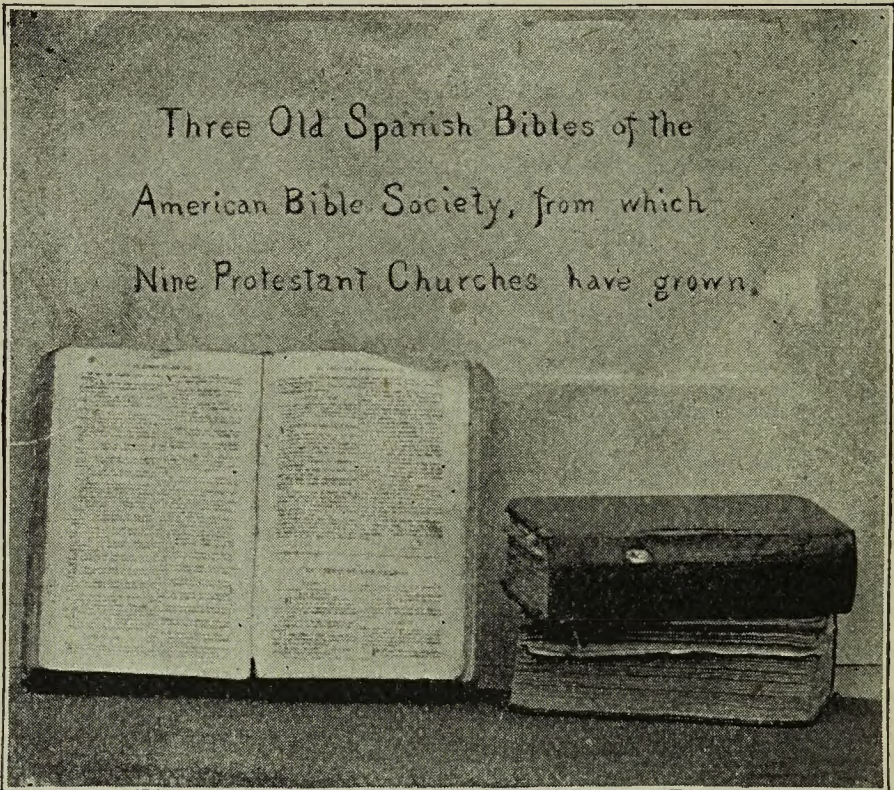
THIS is a practical question, and deserves a practical answer. I might confine myself to referring to the need of cultivating a personal love for the word on the part of the young people, or speak of plans and methods of securing better results from Bible study. But the Spirit does not lead me along these lines. As a business man, I have been thinking of the business side of the question.

The AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY is the recognized agency for the publication and circulation of the Bible. It was dear to the hearts of the fathers who gave to it largely both of prayer and money. But for some reason it dropped out of sight while the claims of other forms of missionary work were pressed upon the churches. Some months ago, I heard Mr. Colton (the special Agent for Eastern Massachusetts) deliver the first address on the needs of the Bible Society that I have heard for more than fifteen years. A generation has grown up that "knows not Joseph," and to whom the story of the mag-

nificent work done by this old Society is as fresh as the latest novel.

Therefore, in answering the question I have asked, I would say :

1. Let the young people inform themselves concerning the work that must be done by this Society, if it is to be done at all. The work is fundamental. Before any real progress can be



made in mission lands, the people must have the word. If I had to choose between the missionary without the Bible, or the Bible without the missionary, I would choose the later. God's word shall not return unto him void. But I need not say that I prefer both the man and the Book.

2. By furnishing a score or a hundred such splendid fellows as Captain Carrington, the earnest Christian Endeavorer, who is scattering the Bible in Siam. No better missionary work is being done by any man in any land.

3. The most important service the young people can render to this and every other good cause, is to make their business a branch of the King's business. The loudest call for the extension of Christ's kingdom to-day comes to business men. And yet there are many young men who when converted think they must enter the ministry. The men and the machinery are ready, but the money is minus. God made silver ore as well as sermon ore, but man must mine and mint it before it will pass current in the markets of the world. People to-day do not need special instruction as to how to make money, but we do need light on how to spend it. Young people need to be taught that it is just as sacred a thing to make money for the extension of God's kingdom as to make sermons. More than anything else, the Bible Society needs money to-day that it may enter open doors with God's word.

What shall we do. Make provision for the presentation of this work in the churches. Inform the people. Give them a chance to give. Let the seed, which is the word, be scattered, and abundant harvests will be ours.

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